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Letter dated 17 April 2000 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Acting on instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the position of the Democratic Republic of the Congo on the Lusaka process.

I. Situation following the signing of the Lusaka Agreement by the Heads of State

Although the Congolese State agreed, during the negotiations, that the so-called rebels would also sign the Agreement, it took more than two months for the aggressors to authorize their protégés to sign, in turn, on 31 August 1999.

This situation was a sign that there would be difficulties in getting the aggressors to implement the Agreement. Indeed, the latter went on to commit countless violations. A detailed report of these violations is annexed hereto.

The Democratic Republic of the Congo has always been willing to implement the Lusaka Agreement. For example, the Congolese Government provided the Regional Joint Military Commission of Lisala, Boende and Kabinda with the resources it needed.

The Democratic Republic of the Congo would like the international community to support the Congolese people in their efforts to achieve unity and peace, contrary to the aims of the aggressors.

II. Position of the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo

In the context of the implementation of the Lusaka Agreement, the Congolese Government wants the inter-Congolese dialogue to be held according to schedule, in order that the democratization process in the Democratic Republic of the Congo may resume under the best conditions.

Thus the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo is asking the Facilitator, Mr. Ketumile Masire, to continue his work and to organize the inter-Congolese dialogue as soon as possible, in Kinshasa, in a spirit of harmony. The Government considers the Facilitator to be a wise African man who has come to help the Congolese people.

The choice of Kinshasa as the venue for the inter-Congolese dialogue is based on the following considerations:

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- The inter-Congolese dialogue is a matter that is related to the sovereignty of the Democratic Republic of the Congo;
- To have this dialogue take place far away and without the Congolese people would be ill-advised and might result in its resolution being contested by those same people;
- The National Sovereign Conference was held freely in Kinshasa and none of the participants was worried. The same was true of the members of civil society who came from every province of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to participate in the meetings at the Nganda Centre;
- At the national consultation which was initiated by the heads of the religious denominations no participant was worried;
- Representatives of the so-called rebels, including the first president of the Congolese Rally for Democracy, all factions taken together, and officials of the former regime, enjoy full personal freedom and are free to move throughout the territory under Government control;
- Finally, those who claim to lead the Congolese people should, in principle, draw closer to the people starting with Kinshasa, which is the seat of all institutions.

III. Conclusion

The determination of the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to have the inter-Congolese dialogue take place and to democratize the country, and its earnest wish to see United Nations forces speedily deployed are strong and positive signals which show that the President of the Republic, Mzee Laurent Désiré Kabila, is determined to ensure that all the boys and girls of the country gather together and are reconciled and to work for peace in accordance with the provisions of the Lusaka Agreement.

It would therefore be desirable for the international community — starting with the traditional friends of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, who are expected to provide considerable support for the peace and national reconciliation process — to recognize this wish for peace, punctuated by amnesty. It would also be useful if the international community were to permit the speedy deployment of the United Nations Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) in accordance with the relevant Security Council resolutions concerning the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo with a view to securing the orderly, prompt and secure withdrawal of the aggressor forces.

My Government requests that you have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) André Mwamba **Kapanga**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Various violations of the Lusaka Agreement by the rebels and their allies

10, 12, 13 and 14 July 1999

Seven violations of the ceasefire on the part of the rebels reported following the signing of the Lusaka Agreement by the countries militarily involved in the war in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

17 July 1999

The rebels and their allies attacked a boat belonging to the Southern African Development Community (SADC) allies that was carrying rations for the troops of the Congolese Armed Forces and allied forces stationed in Ikela.

That same day they also opened fire on a Cassa 212 aircraft belonging to the SADC allied forces that was on a supply mission to Ikela in the province of Équateur. Dimbelenge in the province of Kasaï Oriental was also attacked that same day.

29 July 1999

The rebels used light weapons and mortars in an attack on Bokungu Bosumonene in the province of Équateur.

31 July 1999

Attack on Lusengo and Bongandaga in the province of Équateur.

1 August 1999

A supply plane belonging to the Congolese armed forces and allies was attacked at Ikela. It did not suffer major material damage and returned unharmed to its base in the province of Équateur.

2 August 1999

The rebels made incursions to seize control of Munenge, Lubenga and Dimbelenge in Kasaï Oriental.

3 August 1999

The town of Makanza was attacked by the Rwandans.

24 August 1999

Attack on Tunta airport in Kabinda with heavy weapons, mortars and individual weapons. That same day, intensified rebel activities were reported in Bokungu, where the rebels engaged in mass recruitment of young people from that area. They also cut the roads so as to block supplies to the Congolese armed forces, while strengthening their position around Yakoma.

1 September 1999

The aggressors launched attacks against Bosange, Elengo and Mopono on the Maringa river and Wema on the Tshuapa river in the north-east sector. In the central sector, the rebels attacked the surroundings of Kabinda in Kasaï Oriental and Ikela in Équateur province.

They also tried to impose a blockade on the Congolese armed forces and their allies in an attempt to cut off their supplies.

2 September 1999

Rwandan troops, using heavy weapons, attacked the Congolese armed forces and their allies at Mbulula in the Lulua sector of Katanga.

8 September 1999

The aggressors attacked the town of Bulukutu, situated 95 km north-east of Boende. The same day, Mopono and Djolu were also attacked.

9 September 1999

They attacked a position of the Congolese armed forces and their allies near Lake Mukamba in Kasaï Oriental.

15 September 1999

The Rwandans not only attacked police units 45 km from Malemba-Nkulu in Katanga, but also crossed the river to Kongolo.

The Ugandan headquarters at Kisangani were withdrawn to Gbadolite in accordance with the timetable annexed to the Lusaka Agreement, which laid down that the aggressors also begin to withdraw.

20 and 21 September 1999

The aggressors attacked positions of the Congolese armed forces and their allies at Isambo, in Sud-Équateur on the Boende-Ikela highway.

This attack was accompanied by the violent suppression of Congolese elements who refused to attack government troops.

1 October 1999

The rebels occupied Bomongo in Équateur province. The attack was followed by reinforcement of the strength of the company which carried out this offensive to the point where it exceeded the size of a battalion. During the evening of the same day, troops and *matériel* were constantly being brought into that sector.

2 October 1999

Rwandan troops attacked the village of Kitenge in Kileta, near Kabinda, in Kasaï Oriental.

Thirteen (13) rebels were killed and several weapons, including AKA 47s and RPG7s, were recovered.

3 October 1999

Troops of the Mouvement pour la Libération du Congo (MLC) assembled some 2,000 rebel soldiers beyond Bomongo.

The Rwandans, for their part, attacked positions of the Congolese armed forces (FAC) in Kileta, 12 km from Kabinda. Of the 22 rebels killed, 21 were Rwandan and one was Ugandan.

7 October 1999

The aggressors launched an all-out attack on the Congolese armed forces and their allies at Kimalala, in the Luvua area, on the plateau overlooking Manono in Katanga.

The rebels massed troops newly arrived from Rwanda, Uganda and Burundi at Kole, Lodja and Dimbelenge and in Sankuru, thereby breaching one of the clauses of the Lusaka Agreement which prohibits troop movements.

8 October 1999

The aggressors attacked our positions in Kimalala and Kapondo, not far from Pweto, in Katanga. They also set up a mixed police force, composed of Rwandans, Ugandans and Congolese rebels from two RCS factions, in order to keep an eye on each other.

Rebel troops and equipment were reinforced in the provinces of Katanga, Équateur and the two Kasaï provinces. As a result, a battalion was added to the rebel unit which had attacked Bomongo.

9 October 1999

The aggressors again attacked our troops at Bolongo, not far from Bomongo, in Équateur. They used children as informants and systematically killed them once they had done their job.

12 October 1999

The aggressors occupied and cut off the communication and supply lines for our troops at Boende and Ikela in Équateur, in breach of the Lusaka Agreement.

13 October 1999

Aggressor troops coming from Lodja crossed the Sankuru river and occupied Lake Badra in the Dekese area.

19 October 1999

The enemy invaded Minda, 22 km from Kasumpa, a station on the Kabala-Kitanda line in Katanga. It also carried out looting, rape and abduction in the Malamba-Nkulu area. At the same time, the aggressors again breached the Ceasefire Agreement by attacking our positions at Twite, Kabwe and Tuntula. This breach, combined with statements by Kagame urging people to go to war, reflected complete disregard for the Agreement overseen by the United Nations and OAU.

20 October 1999

Paul Kagame declared that he would keep his troops in the Congo in order to continue the war.

21 October 1999

The aggressors attacked an allied aircraft at Ikela, as well as the town of Djolu in the Bongandanga area.

22 October 1999

Attack on Wanda, a village 50 km from Idumbe on the Sankuru river. Attack on Vumba, a place on the outskirts of Kabalo in Katanga.

23 October 1999

The aggressors attacked Ikela with heavy weaponry and artillery.

24 October 1999

The aggressors violated the ceasefire at Bukwala in Équateur province.

25 October 1999

Attack on our positions at Wanda, 25 km from Idumbe, in the Dekese area of Kasaï Occidental.

26 October 1999

Attack on the positions of the Congolese armed forces and their allies at Ikela. Shots fired at aircraft carrying food supplies. Massacres, rapes, abductions and widespread killings on the outskirts of Wena in Équateur. Attack on our positions at Bulukutu, 30 km north of Wena. Attack on Wanda in the Dekese area.

27 October 1999

Massacres, barbarous killings and rapes on a wide scale in the Kabinda area on the Kipusha road.

The Rwandans systematically massacred and killed all Congolese who had been fighting with them and were now demanding that the ceasefire be respected. They were sent to the front in groups of 15 to attack government forces. When they refused, the Rwandans used this as a pretext for committing genocide in our country.

29 October 1999

Enemy attack at Mwamba Kadima on the Bena Leka-Tshimbadi road in Kasaï Occidental. On the Kananga-Kajiba road, the enemy, dressed in civilian clothing, attacked our positions at Mpoyi. On the Dibumba-Kajiba road, the enemy again breached the ceasefire by attacking positions of the Congolese armed forces and their allies at the Mwamba Kadima lake.

30 October 1999

The Congolese armed forces and their allies observed troops and equipment sent to reinforce the aggressors on all major roads in Kasaï Oriental.

During the night of 29 to 30 October 1999, the aggressors violated the ceasefire by attacking SADC troops on the Kabinda-Mbujimayi road in Kande, Ntangulu and Mwamba Mitantu.

On 30 October, the aggressors killed the local chief of Kalonda and massacred peaceful citizens at Kondo. Kalonda is situated 180 km north-east of Kabinda, while Kondo is situated 8 km from Kalonda, in the Mbujimayi area of Kasaï Oriental.

3 November 1999

Jean-Pierre Mbemba, who as a signatory to the Lusaka Agreement had a duty to show restraint, instead declared that he was going to attack the positions of the Congolese armed forces and their allies in Équateur because the Congolese armed forces had allegedly bombed MLC troops in Dondo, Zongo and Gbadolite.

30 November 1999

In Équateur province, Ugandans and Rwandans, backed by white men speaking English, announced the conquest of Basankusu. On the Ubangui road, the enemy launched an attack on Poto, to the north of Imese, then obtained troop reinforcements in Dongo, Ewalangu and Mangwada.

8 December 1999

In Kasaï Occidental, Rwandans, Ugandans and their Congolese rebel allies attacked our position at Benga on the Kole-Dekese road.

10 December 1999

The Ugandan aggressors, backed by members of UNITA, launched an attack around Konia, which the enemy tried unsuccessfully to occupy.

11 December 1999

On the Basankusu road, the aggressors attacked our position above Bokakata.

Also in Équateur province, on the Boende-Ikela road, the enemy mined the centre of Bokungu, where several accidents occurred.

18 December 1999

The aggressors attacked Konia, on the Boende-Ikela road.

23 to 31 January 2000

The enemy stepped up its attacks on FAC defensive positions over a distance of some 65 km, from Mobambu to Imese, with the intention of reaching Mbandaka.

3 February 2000

Enemy troops laid siege to Likwelo, a position on the bank of the Lukuga river.

2 and 5 March 2000

In the Tshimbadi area, the enemy fired heavy weaponry on Bena-Leka each time the train passed. It also stepped up its attacks on our positions and near Beya-Bwanga at around the same time (7 March 2000 onwards).

6 March 2000

During the morning, the enemy attacked our D'ipoka defensive position in the Dekese area of Kasaï Occidental.

7 March 2000

In the Ileba and Dekese area, Rwandan troops under the name RCD-Goma returned to the offensive and gradually regained control of Lolo, Idumbe, Longa and Ndesa. At 10.50 a.m. on 21 March, they attacked our position at Goyolo, 40 km north-east of Dekese, where the enemy was repelled.